



India-Australia Bilateral Relations

21 March– April 09, 2022

India-Australia share a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” and recently the two erstwhile commonwealth nations have entered into a new era of friendship. Prime Ministers of both the nations met virtually on 21st March, 2022 and have entered into economic and trade agreements to bolster geoeconomics partnership. Focus area of the talks: - clean technology, critical minerals, job creation, security of Indo-Pacific region and rule of law to be respected on land and water.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India, Australia working in Quad to ensure peace in Indo-pacific Business Standard April 09, 2022</p>	<p>Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal noted that India and Australia working closely together in Quad to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-pacific region especially geopolitical alignment. The trade agreement has been well received in India and Australia. He added it will be a great boost to both economic ties, help us in our geopolitical and strategic partnership and create huge employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Indo-Australia trade deal to help create 10 lakh jobs, work visas for students The Hindustan Times April 07, 2022</p>	<p>Union minister Piyush Goyal said the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between India and Australia will help in generating about ten lakh jobs in the next 4-5 years. “Indian students will get work visas to work in Australia. Trade deal with Australia will open new avenues.</p>
<p>India-Australia trade agreement: ECTA will reinforce a strong geoeconomic partnership By Anil Wadhwa Financial Express April 04, 2022</p>	<p>New optimism after the signing of the Australia India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AusInd ECTA) on 2 April 2022 between the two trade ministers in the presence of the respective prime Ministers. This agreement is to be followed by a second phase of the Agreement by the end of 2022.</p>
<p>Modi, Morrison scale up security, trade ties The Hindustan Times March 22, 2022</p>	<p>The two leaders agreed at their second virtual summit that both countries should finalise both an early harvest trade deal and a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) at the earliest. The Australian side announced investments of AUD 280 million (more than 1,500 crore) to drive collaboration in areas such as clean technologies, space and innovation.</p>
<p>Australian FM Payne announces new centre for bilateral relations with India ANI News March 22, 2022</p>	<p>The Australian Government will establish a new centre for Australia-India relations to help foster new ties and support our expanding exchange and cooperation with India, including by engaging Australia’s rich Indian diaspora community. The centre will also administer the AUD 20.8 million maitri scholars, fellowship programs and cultural partnerships.</p>

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India, Australia calls for effective 'Code Of Conduct' in South China Sea NDTV March 22, 2022</p>	<p>The Ministry of External Affairs said in a joint statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison called for an effective "Code of Conduct" in the South China Sea, which is fully consistent with international law. Both underlined the importance of being able to exercise rights and freedoms in all seas and oceans of the Indo-Pacific region, consistent with international law, particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).</p>
<p>Modi-Morrison virtual meet on March 21, 2022, Rs 1,500 crore projects to be unveiled <i>By Shubhajit Roy</i> The Indian Express March 21, 2022</p>	<p>Australia will announce initiatives worth about Rs 1,500 crore (AUD 280 million) in areas including education, clean tech, critical minerals, space, and foreign trade, skills, innovation, and defence exchanges, also Australia will return around 29 culturally significant artefacts to India.</p>
<p>Australian PM Scott Morrison expressed understanding of India's position on Ukraine The Hindu March 21, 2022</p>	<p>Australia Prime Minister expressed his understanding of India's position on the crisis in Ukraine. India and Australia felt that the conflict between Ukraine and Russia should not be a reason for diverting attention from the Indo-Pacific. There was serious concern about the ongoing conflict and humanitarian situation in Ukraine and both emphasised the need for cessation of hostilities and violence in Ukraine.</p>
<p>PM Modi, Scott Morrison agree European conflict shouldn't shift focus from Indo-Pacific: Foreign Secretary India Today March 21, 2022</p>	<p>Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Scott Morrison discussed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggression on India's north among other things. They also agreed that the conflict in Europe should not be the reason to divert attention from the Indo-Pacific region and the Quad. The leaders also discussed the humanitarian aspects of the Ukraine situation.</p>
<p>Australia repatriates 29 Indian antiquities ahead of virtual summit The Hindu March 21, 2022</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison for the return of the antiquities, while speaking at the second India-Australia virtual summit. He said the antiquities had been taken illegally from Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and other States. The antiquities, comprising a mix of sculptures, paintings, portraits and decorative objects.</p>

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